

Meeting Summary
Tribal Court State Court (TCSC) Forum
Thursday, December 5, 2019
Hosted by: State Court

The purpose of the Tribal Court State Court Forum is to enhance tribal court and state court relationships, provide an opportunity to address issues arising from the courts' concurrent jurisdictions, collaborate on development and delivery of judicial education and training, recommend revisions to Minnesota's procedural rules of court, and work on issues that cross jurisdictional boundaries.

[Link to TCSC Forum website](#)

Tribal Court Co-Chairs: Hon. Henry Buffalo and Hon. Lenor Scheffler
State Court Co-Chairs: Hon. Lucinda Jesson and Hon. Sally Tarnowski

Welcome by Judge Jesson

As part of the welcome, Judge Jesson acknowledged and introduced forum members and guests who were in attendance. She talked about the purpose of the meeting (reinforced by the seating arrangement), which was to connect state and tribal court judges who share a similar geography. She also directed everyone's attention to the attached resources, takeaways, and discussion questions which were placed on each table to foster conversation and relationship both now and later.



Discussion
Questions & Conversations



Map of Judicial
Districts & Where They Meet



10 Things to Know
About Tribal Courts

Introductions

The following forum members were present and introduced themselves: Judge Michelle Anderson (St. Louis County – Virginia), Judge Jana Austad (Cass County), Judge Amy Brosnahan (Isanti County), Judge Jeffrey Bryan (Ramsey County transitioning to MN Court of Appeals), Judge Henry Buffalo, Jr. (Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community), Judge Bridgid Dowdal (Chisago County), Senior Judge David Harrington, Judge Lucinda (“Cindy”) Jesson (MN Court of Appeals), Judge Dwayne Knutsen (Yellow Medicine County), Justice David Lillehaug (MN Supreme Court), Judge Bruce Manning (Hennepin County), Cara Melvin (State Court Administrator’s Office), Jodie Metcalf (State Court Administrator’s Office), Senior Judge David Minge, Judy Peterson (State Court Administrator’s Office), Judge David Piper (Hennepin County), Judge Anne Rasmusson (Polk County), Judge Mary Ringhand (Red Lake Nation), Judge Patrick Rohland (Redwood County), Judge Mike Rousu (White Earth Nation), Judge Elizabeth Royal (Red Lake Nation), Judge Lenor Scheffler (Upper Sioux Community), Judge Stephen Smith (Ramsey County), Judge George Soule (Prairie Island Indian Community and White Earth Nation), Judge Megan Treuer (Bois Forte Band of Chippewa and Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe), Rebecca Vanden Hanen (State Court Administrator’s Office), Judge Korey Wahwassuck (Itasca County), Judge Renee Worke (MN Court of Appeals).

Table Discussions & Recap



Discussion
Questions & Conversations

Each table met as a small group to discuss common challenges and successes experienced by state and tribal courts (as well as any issues they'd like to change) and then shared their reflections with the

larger group. Their reflections included, among other things:

- Access to each other's electronic court records;
- Rule 25 and the interplay between state law and ICWA in general when it comes to timelines;
- Shared resources – such as the creation of state specialty courts, like ICWA courts;
- History of TCSC Forum & Rule 10;
- Family centered models for legal issues as something state courts can learn from tribal courts;
- Community service with tribal elder for kids with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD);
- State court judges knowing to inquire about tribal court orders that may exist;
- ICWA training for state court judges who only do CHIPS/ICWA cases sporadically;
- ICWA resource (or “help line”) card for state and tribal court judges indicating who to contact with ICWA questions (to include contacts at the State Court Administrator's Office, the Minnesota County Attorneys Association, tribes, etc.)

Meeting Adjourned